

Ric N. Caric

Department of History, Philosophy, Politics, International, and Legal Studies

Background: Birthplace: Waverly, NY (Population 4500)

BA, St. Lawrence University

MA and PhD, University of North Carolina

Morehead State University: Instructor of Government, 1990-1991,

Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, and Professor of Government, 1991-2010

Professor of International and Interdisciplinary Studies, 2010-2017

Department of International and Interdisciplinary Studies, 2010-2015

Department of History, Philosophy, etc., International Studies, 2015-2017

Why am I Running for Faculty Regent?

Morehead State University faces an uncertain future with a declining regional economy, transition to a new president, the institution of performance funding, and an increasingly conservative state political environment. I believe I have the experience, institutional knowledge, and flexibility needed to stand up for faculty rights, perspectives, and interests in this uncertain and unpredictable environment. Effectively representing MSU faculty on the Board of Regents involves a combination of asking hard questions, taking tough stances, and **also** engaging in active cooperation and building relationships with senior administrators and board members. This has been my approach in a variety of MSU contexts and I am convinced it would be effective on the Board of Regents.

What Would I Do as Faculty Regent?

I. Create Apparatus of Communication.

- a. **Rationale.** I am convinced that the Board, incoming President, and other stakeholders lack basic knowledge of regional economic decline, the impact of declining living standards on students, and most campus activities (outside intercollegiate athletics).
- b. **Resources and Activity.** There is considerable recent journalism and data emerging on the region—including articles on Elliott, Whitley, Clay, Letcher, and Lee counties. There is also recent research on health outcomes in the region by scholars like Michael Hendryx of Indiana University. I am experienced with microblogging about this kind of writing and scholarship, would devote my own internet activity to providing information for top-level stakeholders, and would supplement public internet communication with private e-mail, group e-mail discussions among Board members, etc.
- c. **Desired Outcomes.** The most favorable outcome would be the Board and President gaining a greater knowledge of the region and university activities, making better-informed decisions and taking better advantage of opportunities to improve student recruitment and retention.

II. Policies

- a. **Reinvest in the Academic Sector.** The current administration has hollowed out the academic sector in order to pursue “other priorities.” MSU needs to invest in hiring new faculty, proper maintenance and remodeling for academic buildings, and permanent leadership for support units like the registrar’s office. Reprioritizing academic instruction will be the most important element in meeting performance funding goals and I would push hard to leverage performance funding demands to promote reinvestment in academic instruction.
- b. **Private Fund-raising**—Private fund-raising at MSU is understaffed and substandard. I would recommend that the University’s approach to fund-raising be re-evaluated and that Morehead State investigate large-scale philanthropy and partnering with venture capital outlets like MassChallenge or the recent initiative announced by J.D. Vance and Steve Case (founder of AOL).

- c. **Reconfiguring Athletics.** MSU's sports budget has doubled over the last ten years while major sports like football and men's and women's basketball do very little recruiting in the region. To better connect MSU sports to the service region, I will recommend that MSU investigate changing its affiliation from the NCAA Ohio Valley Conference to the NAIA Mid-South Conference.